

AMENDMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION

Due to extensive amendments to the specification in response to the office action, a substitute specification is provided. Please replace the original specification with the substitute specification filed herewith as amended below. A clean copy of the amended specification is attached with the amendments applied. No new matter is added by these amendments.

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Duvet Cover

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a duvet cover.

Duvets are nowadays very popular and in widespread use. Generally, however, it is a relatively time-consuming and relatively difficult exercise to apply the usual cover to the duvet.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

I have now devised a duvet cover which is of simple construction yet easy to apply to a duvet.

In accordance with the present invention, there is provided a duvet cover for covering a duvet. The duvet cover comprises generally rectangular top and bottom panels of similar size, each of the panels having: a head edge; a foot edge; left and right side edges; a length between the head and foot edges; a width between the side edges; a head portion extending partly over the length of the panel from the head edge; and a foot portion extending partly over the length of the panel from the foot edge towards the head portion; wherein the head edges of the panels are joined together, the left edges of the head portions of the panels are joined together, and the right edges of the head portions of the panels are joined together. The duvet cover further comprises a pocket panel covering the foot portion of the bottom panel, the pocket panel having: a head edge; a foot edge; left and right side edges; a length between the head and foot edges substantially less than the length of the top and bottom panels; and a width between the side edges generally equal to the width of the top and bottom panels; wherein the foot edges of the pocket and bottom panels are joined together, and the left and right edges of the pocket panel are joined to the left and right edges, respectively,

of the foot portion of the bottom panel. Fastening means are provided along the foot and side edges of the pocket panel for releasably fastening with complementary fastening means along the foot edge of the top panel and along the side edges of the foot portion of the top panel. In use, with the fastening means released, one end of the duvet can be inserted into the duvet cover between the pocket panel and the foot portion of the bottom panel, and an opposite end of the duvet can be inserted into the duvet cover between the head portions of the top and bottom panels; the top panel can then be flattened so that the foot portion of the top panel covers the pocket panel; and the fastening means can then be fastened. ~~which comprises an underside panel and an upperside panel, the upperside panel being joined to the underside panel along their top edges and part way along their side edges, and a further panel or band joined to the bottom edge and part way along the side edges of the underside panel, the upperside panel being provided, adjacent its bottom edge and side edges, with fastening means to engage complementary fastening means adjacent the edges of said further panel or on said band.~~

~~In the embodiment where the further panel is provided, this further panel forms, with the underside panel, an envelope into which the bottom portion of the duvet is to be inserted. The top portion of the duvet can then be inserted into the envelope formed by the top portions of the underside and upperside panels. The bottom portion of the upperside panel is then laid over the further panel and the fastening means used to hold it in position.~~

~~Preferably the top edge of the further panel is spaced from the points where the joins between the side edges of the underside and upperside panels terminate. Preferably flaps are joined to the opposite edges of the underside panel, in the spaces between the top edge of the further panel and the terminations of the joins between the side edges of the underside and upperside panel.~~

The top and bottom panels preferably each have a mid portion between the respective head and foot portions, the left and right edges of the mid portion of the bottom panel not being joined to the pocket panel nor the top panel. In this case, the duvet cover preferably further has left and right flaps joined to the left and right edges of the mid portion of the bottom panel, whereby the flaps can be sandwiched between the duvet and the mid portion of the top panel. In use, these flaps can therefore be folded inwardly, over the upperside of the duvet, before the foot bottom portion of the top upperside panel is closed over the duvet and pocket further panel. The flaps thus cover the otherwise-exposed edges of the duvet at those locations. The flaps may comprise separate pieces attached to the bottom underside panel, or may comprise extensions of the bottom underside panel.

~~Embodiments of the present invention will now be described by way of examples only and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

FIGURE 1 is an isometric view of ~~an~~ a first embodiment of duvet cover in accordance with the invention, shown with the duvet inserted but prior to closure;

FIGURES 2A to 2C show ~~FIGURE 2 shows~~ the duvet cover of Figure 1 at successive stages during the insertion of the duvet, ~~and~~

~~FIGURE 3 shows a second embodiment of duvet cover at successive stages during insertion of the duvet.~~

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Referring to the drawings ~~Figures 1 and 2~~, there is shown a cover 10 for a duvet D. The cover comprises a rectangular underside panel 12 and a panel 14 which overlies the lower half of the underside panel 12, being joined to the underside panel along their bottom and side edges. The panel 14 forms, with the underside panel 12, an envelope which is open along its top edge, to receive the lower half of the duvet D.

The cover 10 further comprises a rectangular upperside panel 16 which overlies the underside panel 12 and the panel 14: the upperside panel 16 is joined to the underside panel 12 along their top edges and part way along their side edges, starting at the top and stopping before reaching the top edge of the panel 14. Flaps 18 are joined to the side edges of the underside panel 12, in the gaps between the top edge of the panel 14 and the point where the joins between the upperside panel 16 and the underside panel 12 stop: the flaps 18 are arranged to be folded inwardly, as shown in Figure 2B ~~2(b)~~. Adjacent the remainder of the side edges of the upperside panel 16, and adjacent its bottom edge, a series of fasteners 20 (e.g. pop studs) are provided, to engage a complementary series of fasteners 22 provided on the panel 14 and flaps 18, adjacent their bottom and side edges.

In use, and as shown in Figure 2A ~~2(a)~~, the upperside panel 16 is folded back towards the top of the cover and the flaps 18 are folded outwardly to the opposite sides of the cover. Then the bottom half of the duvet D is inserted into the envelope formed by the panel 14 and underside panel 12. Next the upper half of the duvet D is inserted into the envelope, provided at the top end of the cover, by the upperside panel 16 and underside panel 12: this stage is shown in Figure 1. The flaps 18 are then folded inwardly, as shown in Figure 2B ~~2(b)~~, to lie on the upperside of the duvet D. Finally, the bottom half of the upperside panel 16 is laid over the panel 14 and fastened in position,

along its side and bottom edges, using the fasteners 20, 22. Figure ~~2C~~ 2(e) shows the cover 10 when fully closed about the duvet.

~~Figure 3 shows a second embodiment of duvet cover 20, which is similar to the duvet cover 10 shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 except that the flaps 18 are dispensed with and the panel 14 is replaced by a narrow band or strip 24 which extends across the bottom edge of the cover and along the two side edges, to the points where the joins between the upperside panel 16 and underside panel 12 stop. The band or strip 24 overlies the underside panel 12 and is either joined to the bottom and side edges of the panel 12 or is formed by a margin of the panel 12 folded over onto itself. As in the duvet cover 10 of Figures 1 and 2, the upperside panel 16 has a series of fasteners (not shown) provided adjacent its bottom and side edges, to engage complementary fasteners 22 provided on the band or strip 24.~~

~~In use of the duvet cover shown in Figure 2, the top end of the duvet is inserted into the envelope formed by the top ends of the underside panel 12 and upperside panel 16. The bottom end of the duvet is laid over the underside panel and its edges tucked under the band or strip 24. Finally, the bottom half of the upperside panel is laid over the bottom end of the duvet and fastened in position, along its bottom and side edges, using the fasteners 20, 22.~~

It will be appreciated that the duvet cover covers which has ~~have~~ been described is ~~are~~ of simple construction yet makes ~~make~~ it particularly easy to apply to duvets.